

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 5 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The closing mechanism comprises a fork and a pawl ~~or pawl~~, which are hinged to respective pins fixed to a supporting body designed to be fixed to the door of the motor vehicle.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 9 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The fork is designed to couple in a releasable way with one of the cylindrical portions of the lock striker, hereinafter referred to as "engagement portion", whilst the pawl ~~or pawl~~ is designed to block the fork, in a releasable way, in a position of closing on the lock striker.

Please replace the heading beginning at page 4, line 18 with the following rewritten heading:

-- DISCLOSURE SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 24 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- According to the present invention, a lock is provided for a door of a motor vehicle[[,]]
~~according to claim 1.~~ The lock includes a closing mechanism designed for coupling with a lock
striker along a direction of relative coupling. The closing mechanism includes a supporting body
having a housing seat for receiving an engagement portion of the lock striker. An elastically
compliant buffer delimits the housing seat at least in the aforesaid direction of relative coupling
in order to define damped arrest of the engagement portion of the lock striker. The buffer is
coated on its surface, in an area of interaction with the engagement portion of the lock striker, by
a rigid protective shield. The shield is securely retained on the buffer by snap-fitting opposite
lateral edges of the shield around the buffer.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 7 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The fork 20 is formed by a shaped metal plate coated with plastic material, is hinged at one of its own intermediate portions to the pin 22, and has a U-shaped peripheral seat 24 designed for being engaged by the portion 3 of the lock striker 2 and delimited laterally by a pair of teeth ~~[[24, 26]]~~ 25, 26.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 2 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Coupling of the buffer 30 with the supporting body 4 is obtained by coupling of a projection 34, which extends in cantilever fashion from the end surface 31 of the buffer 30 with a groove or recess 17 having a complementary conformation made in the bottom wall 12 of the opening 5. As may be seen from Figure 1, in order to ensure retention of the buffer 30 in the direction B, the projection 34 has opposite lateral edges 35 that are oblique and converge with respect to one another towards the end surface 31.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 26 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The shield or plate 40 is also U-shaped and has opposite lateral edges 41 folded ~~[[on]]~~ around the buffer 30. In particular, the plate 40 is preferably ~~[[fixed]]~~ securely retained on the second end 33 of the buffer 30 by forcing or snap-fitting the opposite lateral edges 41 around ~~[[on]]~~ the buffer 30. For ease of installation, the shield 40 can be snap-fitted to the second end 33 of the buffer 30 prior to coupling of the buffer 30 with the supporting body 4 such that the buffer 30 and shield 40 are a one-piece component.